February 12, 1970

Dear Harold:

In response to your 2/10 about Lifton, I am somewhat confused. I have never had and never intend to have any contact whatsoever with him. Just knowing that he co-authored that Ramparts bomb "The Case for Three Assassins," I would not be interested in him. I know nothing of what he is doing other than what you have told me. As for his selling of the NO testimony, Dick has said little of it in his letters, only that Lifton was selling the transcripts from Zapruder's and Shaney-felt's test. for $15 together and would I like to buy it. That is all.

You had asked me to write for a tape or a transcript of Specter's debate with Tink. I did not forget, although the reply did not come until today. No go--neither is available(they say they can make an "audio tape" for $185.00). Do you want a copy of my tape of it?

I have some other things to say about Dick's 399 memo which I want to adress to both of you, so I'll put them in this letter since I'm sending Dick a carbon.

Overall, the memo is excellent, and I XXXXXXXXX think we should spare Dick no praise for it. I have comments on slight details which (I wonder) might in some way change other details.

In describing the construction of 399, Dick does not mention the crimp ring or cXannelure. The purpose of this is to hold the core inside of the copper jacket, and I wonder if this has a bearing on how much lead could come out of the rear end.

The sketch on p. 3 exaggerates the squashing of the base. The best representations of this are in 2 pix. One was printed in Six Secs, page 175, and the other was taken for me. That shows the base of 399 with the lip of cartridge case 543. (I once sent this to Dick to put on a slide if he wanted, and I showed it to you the first time I was there).

The discussion on page 4 about cotton batting precluding deformity I would think is vitiated by the fact that one of the test bullets fired into batting for comparison is mutilated(the one that is twisted and slightly bent).

I agree with Harold that a portion of the "wall" which forms the rim around the crater on the base is missing in my picture(or seems to be missing). However, I disagree that it was deliberately cut out. Considering that the base of the bullet is only 1/4 inch in diameter and the crater is but 2mm wide, XXX cutting away such a miniscule sliver is comparable to brain surgery. However, when you realize the rim around such a little crater in soft lead must be so fragile, I think it is possible that it was brushed off let's say by a fingernail being run over it (which has been done many times). We are talking about something on a XX par with a lead shaving.

I will soon have something of interest for both of you. I did what Harold has long urged me to do--take the autopsy measurements on my father's back. It was a mind-blower. I am now convinced of the veracity of the autopsy face sheet position of back wound. My dad is the same general build as JFK, same weight, 2 inches shorter. To accomadate for the height difference, I only went 13 cm. below the right mastoid--it doesn't matter as you will see. I took a variety of pictures of this and when I get them back, I'll probably write a memo and include the pictures. This will be used in my book. Must go.

Edward